

# Halotolerant *Bacillus* sp. for Mannan Degradation Isolated from Mangrove Ecosystem at Hanura Beach Lampung

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## Abstract

Mannose and manno oligosaccharide acted as prebiotic that consumed by probiotic bacteria. Mannanase were the second most important enzymes for the hydrolysis of hemicelluloses, beside xylanase. The objective research was to obtain eminent strains of *Bacillus* sp. in mannan degradation which can potentially be a probiotic candidate. The study employed a completely randomized design using four concentration levels repeated six times. Halotolerant Bacteria were isolated from mangrove ecosystem at Hanura beach, Teluk Pandan, Pesawaran District in Lampung Province. They are grown on the sea water complete agar media. Mannan degradation isolates were then characterized to determine their character with a variety of tests, including resistance to pH, salt, and metal ions, pathogenicity, and determination of mannanase production duration. Thirty strains are found to grow at 3-6% salt content, and 9 of them have mannanolytic activity. They grow optimally at pH 7-10. Seven isolates were proven to be positively hydrolyzed blood agar in the pathogenicity test. The addition of Iron (III) Chloride increased the enzyme activity by 11.12% in IBK3 isolates at 96 hours of cultivation period which was 0.05 U/mL-1. It acted as cofactors of enzymatic reactions. Strains *Bacillus* sp., were able to degrade mannan substrate. It quantified using Index of mannanolytic. Strain IBK3 has the highest index of mannanolytic activity as much as 10.74. Their ability to grow in salt media indicated that they were halotolerant. They were more likely to live at base rather than acid habitat. Only IBK3 and ID2K1 showed non-pathogenic isolates. Only FeCl<sub>3</sub> addition has proven to rise up enzymatic activity.

**Keywords:** Characterization, *Bacillus* sp., Mannanase, Probiotic

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## INTRODUCTION

Mangrove is a coastal intertidal wetland forest composed of halophytic tree and shrub species<sup>1</sup> and Indonesia has the largest mangrove forest in Southeast Asia<sup>2</sup>. The area of mangrove forests in Lampung Province was 17.110 ha<sup>3</sup>. Hanura Village, Teluk Pandan District, Lampung was one of the many Lampung regions that had a mangrove ecosystem. The coastal waters of Hanura Village were mostly overgrown with mangrove forests and make them fertile because they get an accumulation of organic material from marine aquaculture activities in the form of sediment residues and mangrove leaf litter on the forest floor<sup>4</sup>. Organic materials from litter and dead mangrove stems are materials that decomposed by microorganisms. The microorganisms produce minerals that help maintain the fertility of the surrounding soil<sup>5</sup>. Structural analysis of the polysaccharides in the cell walls of dicotyledon is known to consist of cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin<sup>6</sup>.

Hemicellulose was the second polysaccharide which was very abundant in nature after cellulose. Hemicellulose had two main components, namely hetero-1.4- $\beta$ -D-xilan and hetero-1.4- $\beta$ -D-mannan<sup>7</sup>. The mannan component breaks down by mannanase into mannose and mannoooligosaccharide. Mannose and mannoooligosaccharide acted as prebiotic that consumed by probiotic bacteria. Mannanase enzyme activity has different levels depending on the source. This enzyme can be found from various sources including animals, plants, and microorganisms. In research, generally mannanase is taken from microorganism because it can be produced in large quantities and the isolation process is also easier<sup>8</sup>. Mannanase producing microorganisms was include *Bacillus subtilis* MAN-511<sup>9</sup>, *Bacillus subtilis* TJ-102<sup>10</sup>, *Bacillus pumilus* M27<sup>11</sup> and *Bacillus cereus* N1<sup>12</sup>. It would be very good if these bacteria are also probiotic. Probiotic bacteria produce enzymes that are able to break down complex compounds to be simple so they are ready to be used by fish feed<sup>13</sup>. The type of probiotic bacteria is influenced by the environment. Environmental factors such as pH condition and salinity where the bacteria are isolated greatly affect their ability to grow, develop

and to carry out their functions as expected<sup>14</sup>. The ability of microorganisms to degrade mannan was very helpful in the field of aquaculture. It applied to the media for shrimp maintenance, water media, sub grade and feed. This study aims to obtain eminent strains of *Bacillus* sp. in mannan degradation which can potentially be a probiotic candidate for shrimp farming.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Composition media

Bacteria were cultured at Sea Water Complete (SWC) media with a composition of 0.5% locust bean gum, 0.5% peptone, 0.1% yeast extract, 0.3% glycerol, 1.5% agar, 25% aquades, and 75% sea water.

### Bacteria Selection for Mannanolytic activity

Bacteria selection is conducted by qualitative method using agar plate assay. Bacterial collection were grown on SWC agar with the addition of 0.5% locust bean gum (LBG). After incubation for 24 hours, the colonies were stained with 1% congo red for 15 minutes. It washed again using 1M NaCl. Observations were made included mannanolytic index and bacterial staining. Selected colony with highest clear zones was tested using enzymatic assay with DNS method to determine the length of incubation time for enzyme production<sup>15</sup>.

### Salt tolerance test

Mannanolytic isolates were further tested for their resistance to salt content. Bacteria were grown on SWC agar with the addition of salt as much as 0%, 3%, and 6% NaCl. The size of the colony was observed after an incubation period of 24 hours at room temperature<sup>15</sup>.

### pH tolerance test

Mannanolytic isolates were tested for their resistance to media pH stress. Bacteria were grown on SWC agar media with pH 4, 7, and 10 whereas 1 N HCl and 1 N NaOH were utilized respectively. After an incubation period of 24 hours at room temperature, growth and size of the colonies were observed and recorded<sup>15</sup>.

### Pathogenicity test

Mannanolytic bacterial isolates were tested for their pathogenicity using sheep-blood agar media. Observations were made after an incubation period of 24 hours at room

temperature. Isolates that have the ability to hemolysis are shown by the formation of clear zones around the colony<sup>16</sup>.

#### Metal susceptibility test

Selected isolates that did not show any pathogenicity in the previous test were further tested in determining the mannanolytic index by growing on SWC media with the addition of metal substrates and ions to know mannanase activity in metal ion present. The metals used are Fe, Pb, Cu and Al in the form of salt FeCl<sub>3</sub>, PbCl<sub>2</sub>, CuCl<sub>2</sub>, and AlCl<sub>3</sub><sup>17</sup>.

#### Mannanase enzyme production

Starter was constructed using 50 mL liquid SWC media on 250 mL Erlenmeyer. The

starter was incubated at room temperature for 48 hours using an orbital shaker. Furthermore, the starter was inoculated as much as 5 mL into 45 mL of liquid SWC media with the addition of 0.5% locust bean gum substrate and incubated in the shaker orbital (120 rpm)<sup>15</sup>.

#### Enzyme production

Determination of the length of production time proposed by taking 5 mL of culture every 24 hours of incubation for 7 days. It centrifuged at 8500 rpm for 15 minutes. Enzyme activity was determined using 3,5-dinitrosalicylic acid (DNS) method and the absorbance was read at a wavelength of 540 nm. One unit (IU) of-mannanase activity was defined as the amount

**Table 1.** Bacteria Selection and Characterization

No.	Isolate	Gram	Colony				Mannanolytic index
			Shape	Margin	Elevation	Color	
1	IAK1	+	Circular	Filamentous	Raised	White	5,35
2	IAK2	+	Circular	Entire	Raised	White	6,57
3	IAK3	+	Irregular	Lobate	Raised	Yellow	-
4	IAK4	+	Circular	Filamentous	Raised	White	5,47
5	IA2K1	+	Circular	Entire	Raised	White	-
6	IA2K2	+	Circular	Entire	Flat	Pink	-
7	IA2K3	+	Circular	Filamentous	Flat	Clear	-
8	IA2K4	+	Circular	Entire	flat	Clear	-
9	ILK3	+	Circular	Entire	Raised	Orange	-
10	ILK5	+	Circular	Entire	Raised	Orange	-
11	ILK6	+	Circular	Undulate	Raised	Pink	-
12	ILK9	+	Irregular	Lobate	Flat	Clear	-
13	IL2K5	+	Circular	Entire	Flat	Clear	-
14	IL2K8	+	Irregular	Undulate	Flat	Clear	-
15	IL2K9	+	Circular	Entire	raised	White	-
16	IKK1	+	Circular	Undulate	Raised	White	4,96
17	IKK3	+	Circular	Entire	Raised	White	2,61
18	IDK4	+	Circular	Entire	Flat	White	-
19	IDK6	+	Circular	Entire	Raised	White	9,14
20	ID2K1	+	Circular	Filamentous	Flat	White	10,64
21	ID2K2	+	Circular	Undulate	Raised	White	4,18
22	ID2K3	+	Circular	Entire	Raised	Cream	-
23	IBK1	+	Circular	Filamentous	Flat	Clear	-
24	IBK3	+	Circular	Entire	Raised	Cream	10,74
25	IPK3	+	Circular	Irregular	Flat	Clear	-
26	KA2K2	+	Irregular	Undulate	Raised	Pink	-
27	KA2K4	+	Circular	Entire	Convex	Pink	-
28	KBK2	+	Irregular	Undulate	Raised	White	-
29	KLK7	+	Irregular	Undulate	Raised	White	-
30	KL2K2	+	Irregular	Lobate	Flat	White	-
Number		30	30	30	30	30	9

of protein producing 1  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  of reducing sugar per minute (e.g., mannose) under standard conditions<sup>15</sup>.

## RESULTS

### Bacteria Selection for Mannanolytic activity

The selection results showed that there were 9 mannanolytic isolates from a total of 30 isolates tested. These isolates were IAK1, IAK2, IAK4, IBK3, IDK6, ID2K1, ID2K2, IKK1, and IKK3. The IBK3 isolate gave the largest mannanolytic index of 10.74 which was indicated by the clear zone formed around the colony (Table 1). Gram staining indicated that IBK3 isolates were Positive-bacteria in bacilli form.

### Salt tolerance test

Probiotic microbes were able to grow and form colonies on bile salts<sup>18</sup>. The results showed that salt levels can affect bacterial growth. It is indicated by the size of the colony which varies in 0%, 3%, and 6% salt content. Colony size of some bacteria tends to be larger in media with salt stress 0% and 3%, whereas in media with salt content

of 6% the size of the colony tended to be smaller (Fig. 1).

### pH tolerance test

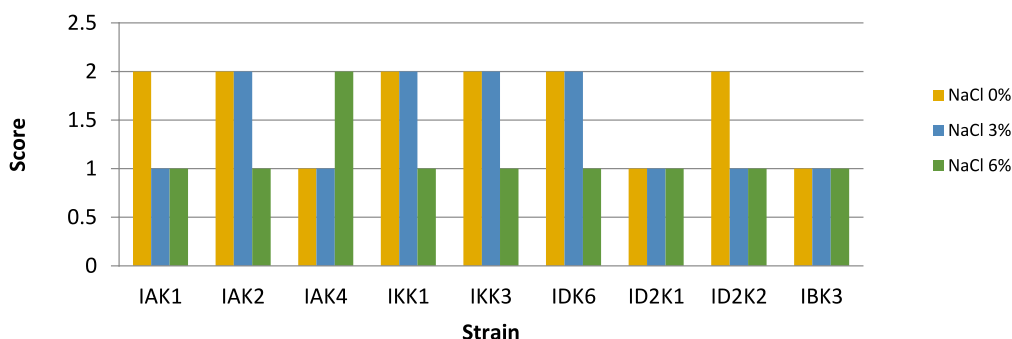
In testing the pH of the media showed that all isolates resistant to alkaline stress but not resistant to acids, this was indicated by the absence of appearance of bacteria that grow on media with a pH of 4 (Fig. 2).

### Pathogenicity test

Isolates that show  $\beta$ -hemolysis or total hemolysis were IAK2, IKK1, IKK3, IDK6, ID2K2, while IKK1 and IKK3 were positive  $\alpha$ -hemolysis (partial). Isolates included in gamma hemolysis were IBK3 and ID2K1 (Fig. 3). Isolates with negative hemolysis ( $\gamma$ ) results will be used for further testing.

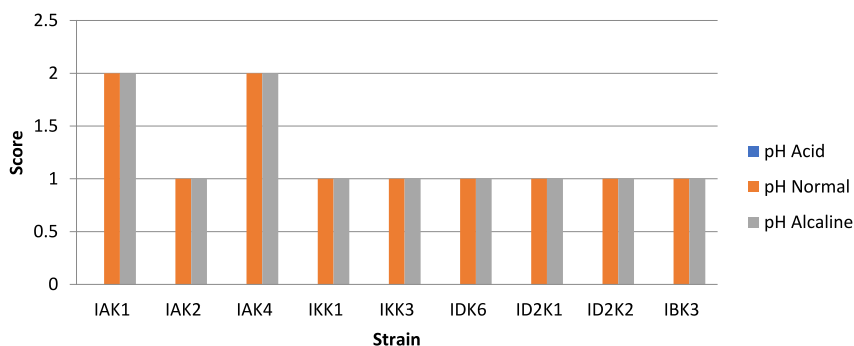
### Metal susceptibility test

The presence of metal ions in the media acted as inhibitors or as cofactors of enzymatic reactions. The addition of  $\text{FeCl}_3$  metal as much as 20mM increased the mannanolytic index of IBK3 isolates which was 3.76 or 11.12% higher when compared to controls (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 1.** Bacterial salt tolerant assay

Description: Score null = none growth, Score1 = small colony, Score 2 = Large colony,



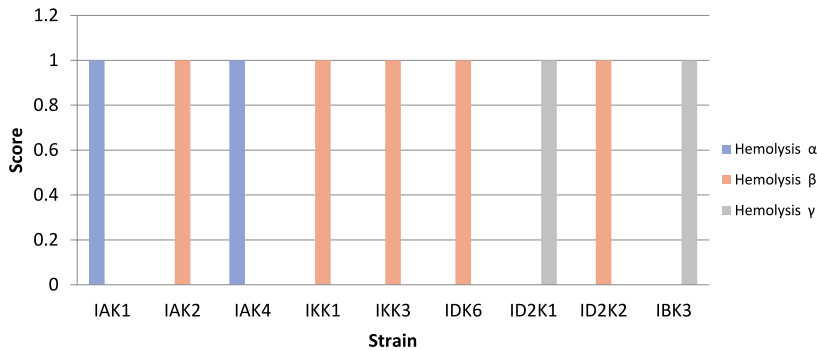
**Fig. 2.** Bacterial pH tolerant assay

Description: Score null = none growth, Score1 = small colony, Score 2 = Large colony

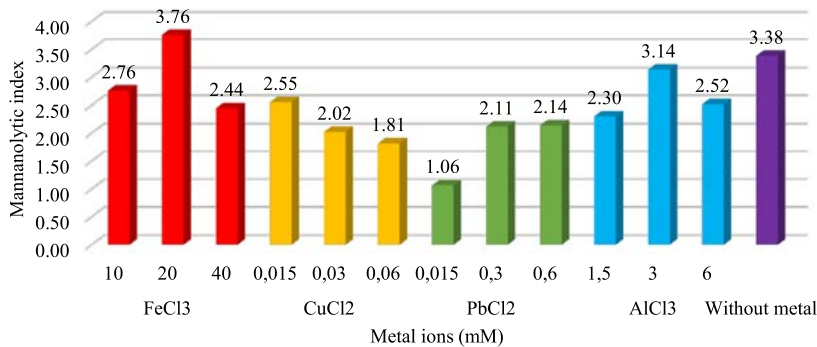
### Enzyme production

Mannanase enzymes are primary metabolites needed by bacteria to degrade carbon sources in the form of mannan contained in the locust bean gum substrate during bacterial growth. One unit of mannanase activity was defined as

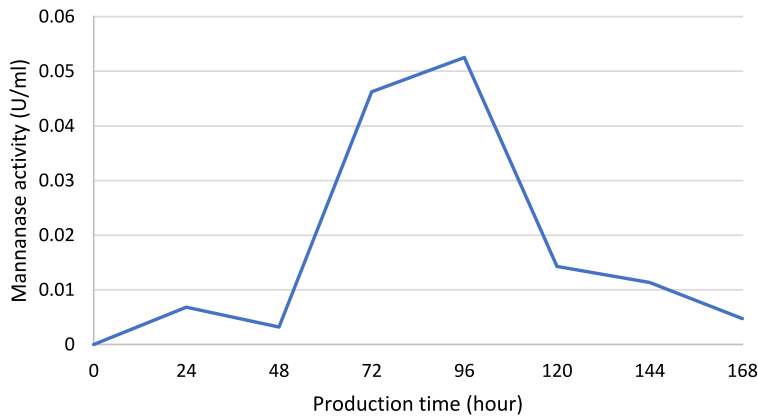
the amount of enzyme that released  $1 \mu\text{mol}^{-1}$  of reducing sugar per min under standard assay conditions<sup>22</sup>. The IBK3 isolate showed the highest enzyme activity at the production time of 96 hours, which was  $0.05 \text{ U mL}^{-1}$  and continued to decline until 168 hours (Fig. 5).



**Fig. 3.** Hemolytic test using blood agar assay  
Description: Score null = negative reaction, Score1 = positive reaction



**Fig. 4.** Metal effect of FeCl<sub>3</sub> (10mM, 20mM, 40mM), CuCl<sub>2</sub> (0.015mM, 0.03mM, 0.06mM), PbCl<sub>2</sub> (0.015mM, 0.03mM, 0.06mM), and AlCl<sub>3</sub> (1.5mM, 3mM, 6mM) to IBK<sub>3</sub> isolate in producing mannanase enzyme.



**Fig. 5.** IBK3 isolate mannanase activity curve determined using DNS method and analyzed using spectrophotometer at  $\lambda$  540nm.

## DISCUSSIONS

Isolation of bacteria on SWC agar media with the addition of 0.5% locust bean gum (LBG) substrate showed the growth of mananolytic bacteria. The presence of mananolytic bacteria indicated by the presence of clear zones formed around bacterial colonies after staining with congo red and NaCl. Congo red was bound into the  $\beta$ -1,4-D-manopiranosil bond and turned red to the media. LBG contained in the media had broken down by bacteria as a source of carbon in the process of metabolism. The breakdown produced mannose monosaccharides, reduced the binding of Congo red dye and consequently generated a clearing zone<sup>18</sup>.

The ability of isolates to grow in stress levels of salt influenced by the source of isolates obtained that our isolate was taken from estuary ecosystem. These results were almost the same as the research of<sup>17</sup>, they were show that marine bacteria can grow well at 2.5 - 5% salt content. Bacteria need nutrients to grow during the incubation period<sup>16</sup>. Nutrients were obtained from the surrounding environment media. The more acidic in media caused more hydrogen content in media. The presence of too many hydrogen ions in the media inhibited transport nutrients.

Bacteria that grow in the absence of salt and in the presence of high salt concentrations were known as halotolerant. Non-halotolerant which can grow in low salt concentration about 1% w/v. Halotolerant bacteria, recovered from the composting process, were able to produce hydrolases, lipases, proteases, amylases, cellulases and biopolymers. Slightly tolerant as *pseudomonads*, *enterobacteria*, and *vibrios*, can survive in up to 2–8%, moderately tolerant 18–20% and extremely tolerant microbes can grow over the whole range of salt concentrations from zero to saturation<sup>26</sup>. From these reason most of *Bacillus* that we obtained were halotolerant.

The halotolerant organisms maintain a low level of ionic concentrations to synthesize compatible solutes to balance the osmotic level inside the cytoplasm with the outer medium. These maintenance mechanisms of the internal environment and the properties of the cytoplasmic membrane help them to adapt to changes in the saline environment as salt lakes, saline soils, and salted food products<sup>27</sup>.

Probiotic agents must not be pathogenic and had proven to have health effects<sup>18</sup>. The observation of hemolysis test gave of various results. Hemolysis divided into 3 was namely alpha, beta, and gamma hemolysis. Beta hemolysis was a complete lysis of red blood cells, it caused around the colony turn to clear area. Alpha hemolysis was partial hemolysis while gamma hemolysis was no hemolysis<sup>19</sup>. Toxicity tests were important not only to discard those few species of some *Bacillus* genera, such as *B. cereus* and *B. anthracis*. Consequently, these two  $\gamma$  hemolytic strains (IBK3 and ID2K1) were the most promising probiotic candidates from all 30 isolated *Bacillus* because they were not pathogenic or able of producing toxic substances that may harm fish, or shellfish. IBK3 was selected to optimize in the enzyme production due to had the highest mannanolytic index.

Metal ions were optimized through mannan degrading-enzyme activity. It conducted to understand which metal played as cofactor or even inhibitor in mannan degradation. Mannanase activity of *Bacillus subtilis* increased with the addition of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  metal ions<sup>20</sup>. Unfortunately it is unable tolerated  $\text{Cu}_2^+$  more than 0.015mM, because<sup>7</sup> confirmed that  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  acted as an inhibitor of the mannanase enzyme from *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* L-07. It tolerated lead ( $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ) less than 0.06 mM. It accumulated  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in maximum no more than 3 mM. Beside that metal ions played as inhibitors when it bound to the active side of the enzyme so that the enzyme became ineffective in binding the substrate (Fig. 1). These results were in accordance with the research<sup>21</sup> which showed the highest activity of the mannanase used *Bacillus cereus* in the production time of 88-96 hours. It<sup>7</sup> showed the highest activity of the enzyme mannanase isolate *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* L-07 at the time of production of 36 hours with 3.1 U.mg<sup>-1</sup>activity.

## CONCLUSION

Strains *Bacillus* sp., were able to degrade mannan substrate. It quantified using Index of mannanolytic. Strain IBK3 has the highest index of mannanolytic activity as much as 10.74. Their ability to grow in salt media from 3- 6 % salt content indicated that they were slightly halotolerant. They were more likely live at base

rather than acid habitat. Only IBK3 and ID2K1 showed non-pathogenic isolates. Only FeCl<sub>3</sub> addition has proven to rise up enzymatic activity.

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#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

#### AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

S and SF designed the experiments. CNE performed the experiments. AA and DER analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript. S, SF and CNE read and approved the manuscript.

#### FUNDING

None.

#### ETHICS STATEMENT

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

#### DATA AVAILABILITY

The datasets are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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